

SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT FACT SHEET

Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Abuse Services

February, 2002

This fact sheet contains information about the impact of alcohol and other drug use in the First Middlesex Representative District. Admission data were reported to the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (BSAS) Substance Abuse Management Information System in FY 2001.

Residents of First Middlesex Representative District

Treatment Admissions:

In FY 2001, there were 120,687 admissions to licensed substance abuse treatment services in all of Massachusetts. Of these, 0.3% (469) reside in the First Middlesex Representative District. Due to budget cuts in FY 2002, BSAS estimates that 19% (89) of First Middlesex Representative District residents will not be able to access treatment services. **Please note that these statistics represent only individual admissions, and represent a figure lower than the actual number of constituents in need of treatment services.**

- In FY 2001, 74.8% of admissions from the First Middlesex Representative District were male and 25.1% were female.
- Over 92.9% of admissions were between the ages of 21-39.
- 92.1% of admissions were white non-Latino, 0.8% were black non-Latino, 5.5% were Latino, and 1.4% were other racial categories.
- 66.3% of those admitted to treatment were never married, 15.3% were married, and 14.2% reported not to be married now.
- 25.5% of admissions had less than high school education, 47.5% completed high school, and 26.8% had more than high school education.
- 41.5% of those admitted to treatment were employed.
- 7.4% of those admitted were homeless.
- 10.6% of admissions had prior mental health treatment.

Substances Used in Past Year:

Upon entering treatment, each client is asked to report ALL substances used in the past year (12 months) prior to admission. Admissions frequently report using more than one substance within the year. The use of more than one psychoactive substance, such as alcohol and marijuana, is referred to as 'polydrug' or 'polysubstance' use. For example, individuals who use cocaine, crack and heroin also may report the use of either alcohol and/or marijuana.

- Table 1 shows ALL substances which clients reported using in the year prior to admission, including the prevalence of injection drug use (IDU) in the First Middlesex Representative District. Injection drug users (or IDU's) are individuals who use a needle to ingest cocaine, crack, heroin or another drug to get high.

Table 1 Annual Admissions by Substance Used FY 1995 – FY 2001							
First Middlesex Representative District							
	Total	Alcohol	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack	Heroin	IDU
FY '95	411	374	127	89	79	49	25
FY '96	317	290	99	52	62	36	27
FY '97	405	371	124	85	61	87	65
FY '98	474	418	172	122	85	127	91
FY '99	453	381	152	105	72	128	102
FY '00	468	379	151	128	86	162	121
FY '01	469	367	140	94	62	188	136

- Since dropping in FY 1996, residents of First Middlesex Representative District reported an increase in alcohol, marijuana and cocaine use. Alcohol use increased by 26%, marijuana by 41%, and cocaine use by 80%.
- Between FY 1995 and FY 2001, admissions reporting heroin use more than tripled, while crack use decreased by 21%.

Primary Substance of Use:

At admission clients also identify a “primary drug” of use which is the substance currently causing them the most problems.

- Table 2 compares the proportional distribution of primary drugs in Massachusetts with that for the First Middlesex Representative District.

Table 2 Primary Drug by District and State FY 2001					
	Alcohol	Heroin	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack
District	48.1%	38.1%	7.4%	2.1%	1.0%
State	46.4%	35.9%	6.5%	3.8%	3.4%

- While cocaine and crack as a primary drug of use in your Representative District was lower than the State average, alcohol, heroin and marijuana was higher within your District.